

# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force Working Group

FIU OE 165, University Park, Miami, Florida 33199  
305-348-1665

## MEMORANDUM

April 1, 2003

**From:** Rick Smith, Chairman *RMS*  
**To:** Ann Klee, Chair, Task Force and  
Task Force  
**Re:** Working Group Priorities

In February, the Task Force directed the Working Group to identify priority issue areas of work for this year and the immediate future. On March 4 and 5, the Working Group developed priorities within the framework of the Working Group Charter and, in a teleconference on March 28, confirmed and fine tuned this information.

These priorities were voted upon and reflect the top five priorities of the members in attendance. Please note that ongoing activities of the Working Group that flow from the Charter were assumed would continue (e.g. Science Coordination).

1. *Identify and frame restoration issues:*
  - Identify and frame restoration issues for decision-makers
  - Identify roadblock issues or barriers to restoration progress
2. *Water Quality Issue Team:*
  - Appoint Water Quality Issue Team to assess water quality components of restoration projects with emphasis on nutrients and contaminants
  - Lake Okeechobee Water Quality
  - Mercury bioaccumulation issues
  - Non-point source pollution
3. *Expedite implementation of Modified Water Deliveries/C-111/Combined Structural and Operational Plan for the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow (CSOP) projects:*
  - Other ecosystem restoration projects (Kissimmee River, C-51)
  - Coordinate CSOP stakeholder involvement
4. *Provide opportunities for more meaningful stakeholder involvement*
  - Public involvement in decision-making
  - Better stakeholder involvement in recreational planning and decision-making
5. *Track Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) projects to help assure timely forward progress and that project modifications are timely:*
  - CERP project scheduling and implementation
  - Coordinate CERP Programmatic Regulations and related water assurance issues (consumptive use permitting, reservations, minimum flows and levels)
  - RECOVER and Adaptive Management
  - Strategically assist CERP implementation

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In addition, the Working Group ranked the below issues in sequential priority order:

6. *Clarify the role of science coordination*
  - Science Coordination/Task Force role
  - Science Coordination Team/Working Group Role
7. *Planning/Land and Water Use coordination (Goal 3, Strategic Plan)*
  - Link Land use and conservation planning
  - Improve coordination with local government re: land acquisition strategy
  - Land acquisition and management
8. *Marine Issues:*
  - Florida and Biscayne bays – science issues
  - Impacts on adjacent marine waters
9. Monitor implementation of Multi-Species Recovery Plan:
  - Appoint MSRP Issue Team
  - Help implement MSRP
10. Monitor ASR Technology
11. Streamline Working Group meetings